THE VETERINARY RECORD

FOUNDED BY WILLIAM HUNTING, F.R.C.V.S., 1888.

No. 17. APRIL 25, 1942. VOL. 54.

Veterinary Education during the past hundred years, including an historical account of the Veterinary College of Ireland, Dublin*

T. G. BROWNE, M.R.C.V.S.,

PRINCIPAL, ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE OF IRELAND, DUBLIN

The history of veterinary education and veterinary science in Ireland has been so closely bound up with that in Great Britain, that any review of the progress of the Veterinary Art must necessarily embrace the veterinary history of both these countries.

In a certain sense the science which is concerned with the diseases of the domesticated animals is one of the oldest, and its origin is lost in the mists of antiquity as revealed in Greek and Roman history. In another sense, however, the science is quite modern, and takes us no further back than the middle of the eighteenth century, when the first veterinary college was founded. Before that time there was no machinery for the systematic study of diseases of animals or for ensuring that new knowledge would be disseminated and passed on to the next generation, and this knowledge was scarcely more than a meagre collection of observations and opinions incapable of being arranged in any natural order or sequence. The foundation of the first veterinary college was the initial step towards the provision of such machinery and the creation of a veterinary profession in the sense of a body of men devoting their lives to the study and practice of what now began to deserve the name of a science.

The first veterinary college was founded in Lyons, France, in the year 1762 and this college, which still exists, has fittingly been termed the cradle of veterinary science. Three years later a second French college was founded at Paris and before the end of that century 13 other colleges had been established in Europe, the second last of the series being that in London which was founded in 1791 and was the first in Great Britain.

In that year the Royal Veterinary College, London, was erected on its present site in Camden Town. Its first Principal was a Frenchman named Saint Bel, who had studied at the Lyons school, and at the outset he himself constituted the entire staff. He lived for only a short time afterwards, and in 1793 was succeeded by a Dr. Coleman, a medical man, who had already acquired a considerable reputation in human surgery. At the first examination held at that college in April, 1794, qualifying certificates were granted to successful candidates, nine in number, who had attended for only one short session. This appears to have been the usual length of the course required for many years afterwards and William Dick, the founder of the Edinburgh College, was one of the students who obtained his certificate in 1818 after about four months' study. Dick then returned to his native city in which five years later (1823) he founded the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, with the aid of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.

The colleges in London and Edinburgh were the only institutions of the kind in Great Britain until 1859 when John Gamgee founded in Edinburgh a rival school to the "Dick" College which continued only six years until 1865 when it was transferred by Gamgee to London where it survived only a very short time.

To complete the story of the origin of the different veterinary colleges in Great Britain and Ireland there was the foundation of the Glasgow Veterinary College by the late Professor McCall in 1862; then came the New Veterinary College in Edinburgh, founded by the late Professor Williams in 1873, this being another rival institution to the "Dick" College, but in 1904 the Williams College was transferred from Edinburgh to Liverpool where it is now represented by the Veterinary School of the Liverpool University. Finally came the foundation of the Veterinary College of Ireland in Dublin in 1900.

The foundation of the present Dublin College, however, was not the first attempt to establish a veterinary college in this city. About the year 1798 the Royal Dublin Society was empowered by Act of Parliament to acquire a site for a veterinary school, and the houses numbered 9 to 14 in Townsend Street were obtained for that purpose. Acting on the recommendation of Dr. Coleman of the London Veterinary College, Mr. Thomas Peall was appointed in November, 1800, Professor and Lecturer, and Mr. Watts Assistant Professor and Practitioner. In 1807, however, Mr. Peall resigned his position on being appointed Veterinary Surgeon to the Royal Artillery and the existence of this veterinary school then ceased. After that time various other attempts were made by the Royal Dublin Society to put on foot a scheme for the foundation of a veterinary college, and various courses of veterinary lectures were given from time to time at various places, but the formation of an Association of Veterinary Surgeons, about the year 1868, which held its meetings in the offices of the Royal Dublin Society, would appear to have had a stimulating effect in promoting the scheme. In 1883 the Royal Dublin Society appointed a committee to report on the most effective means of founding an Irish Veterinary School and this eventually led to the establishment of the present Dublin College. This college was granted a Royal Charter in 1895 and a Board of Governors was then nominated by the Crown, the Royal Dublin Society and the Commissioners of National Education. In 1899 the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act became law and a clause in that Act provided the sum of not less than £15,000 for the building and equipment of a veterinary college. The Agricultural Board was empowered under the same Act to make further grants to the veterinary college as it thought fit. In 1900 the Board of Governors acquired the present site with a frontage on Pembroke Road and a rear on Shelbourne Road. The site had already upon it a house fronting Pembroke Road and this is the old house which was the residence of the first Principal (Professor Mettam). Temporary buildings were at first erected on this site and the first session was opened in October, 1900. In 1901 the permanent building was commenced. In 1902 Blocks A, B and C were completed and on October 1st of that year this part of the college was officially opened by the Earl of Dudley, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. It was then hoped that the site at present occupied by Messrs. Crampton (Contractors) would be acquired to enable the frontage of the college to reach Pembroke Road, but it was afterwards found that this ambition could not be realised and the Governors then decided to erect Block D. The entrance to the College was afterwards confined to the Shelbourne Road gateway, which was originally intended to be the rear entrance to the building. In 1908 Block D was erected and the Pathological Laboratory was completed. It is this block which contains the large lecture theatre which is capable of accommodating 300 persons. In January, 1909, the completed buildings were officially opened by the Right Honourable A. Birrell, then Chief Secretary for Ireland. Block A (except the Lecture Theatre above the Pharmacy) and Block B (except the Pathology Laboratory) were as yet only one-storey buildings, but in 1940-1941 these were raised to their present height of two storeys for the accommodation of the small-animal clinic, the Pharmacology Laboratory and the Hygiene Laboratory. At the same time the Physiology Laboratory was extended above the Anatomy Store Room and Killing Room.

Up to the end of 1914 the affairs of the college were administered by a Board of Governors, the Chairman of which was the late Sir Christopher Nixon, a well-known Dublin physician who resided in Merrion Square, and father of the present Sir Christopher Nixon of this city. The finances of the college were then largely dependent upon students' fees and grants from the Department of Agriculture. Its financial position was then, to say the least, precarious, and was such that it was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the college in that state of efficiency which was necessary to keep abreast of the progress of veterinary science. Financial relief, however, came in 1914 when the college, including the staff, was taken over by the Department of Agriculture, and ever since it has remained under the control of that body.

The first Principal of this college was the late Professor A. E. Mettam who, previous to his appointment here, was Professor of Anatomy in the "Dick" College, Edinburgh. It was he who shouldered most of the up-hill work in the foundation of this institution. When he arrived here the only buildings on the site of the present college were a few temporary structures and the Old House which became his residence. He travelled to many of the modern veterinary colleges on the Continent and, as a result of the information thus gleaned, he planned the Dublin College on such modern principles that it was for many years in the forefront of the modern veterinary colleges in Europe. He was a man of outstanding personality and ability and in spite of the financial difficulties with which he had to contend in the running of the college, he maintained its

*Read at the inaugural meeting of the Students' Debating Society of the Veterinary College of Ireland on November 7th, 1941.

status and teaching capacity second to none and many of the Dublin graduates of his time hold some of the most important veterinary appointments in many parts of the world to-day. In November, 1917, he died of pernicious anaemia after a few months' illness. His successor as Principal was Professor J. F. Craig who was then Professor of Medicine and had been a member of the staff from 1903. In 1935 Professor Craig was appointed to the Prescott Chair of Pathology in the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Liverpool, and he was succeeded as Principal by Professor J. J. O'Connor who was then Professor of Surgery and had been a member of the staff from 1902. Professor O'Connor retired on the age limit in 1941 and was succeeded by the present Principal.

On the retirement of Professor Craig the chair of Medicine was filled by Professor A. F. O'Dea, and on the retirement of Professor O'Connor the chair of Surgery was filled by Professor M. J. Byrne.

For many years, up to 1937, there were four whole-time members on the professional staff. There were no permanent lecturers or assistants and several of the subjects were taught by part-time teachers. For a few years after the foundation of the college a resident House Surgeon was appointed annually, usually from the recent graduates of the college. His residence was the room next to the Caretaker's Lodge. Mr. Louis Magee, Dunboyne, was one of the occupants of this office. At that period the four whole-time members of the staff were the Professors of Pathology, Surgery, Medicine and Anatomy, namely, Professors Mettam, O'Connor, Wooldridge and Craig respectively. In 1907 Professor Wooldridge was appointed to the staff of the London College, a position which he still occupies. From that year until 1915 Professor Craig held the dual post of Professor of Medicine and Anatomy which he carried out with the aid of an Assistant who was also Demonstrator in Pathology. This Assistantship was an annual appointment and was always given as an award or prize to the new graduate of the preceding session who had had the best college record. In 1914 the Assistant of that year was promoted to Lecturer in Anatomy, and in 1915, immediately after the college had been taken over by the Department, he was appointed to the chair of Anatomy and the system of the annual appointment of an Assistant then ceased. On the death of Professor Mettam in 1917 Professor Daniel Kehoe, a distinguished graduate of the college, returned from South Africa to take over the Professorship of Pathology, but in 1928 Professor Kehoe died after a protracted illness and he was succeeded by Professor W. Kearney who had returned from Africa a short time previously. The subjects of the curriculum not already mentioned were taught by part-time members of the staff, the longest in office being Professor G. T. Dunne who taught Materia Medica and Hygiene from soon after the foundation of the college until 1937, when the staff was re-organised and increased to its present size of five professors and nine lecturers, and when teaching by part-time members of the staff ceased. In that year a whole-time Professor of Physiology, Professor J. A. Nicholson, was appointed, and this was the first occasion on which the teaching of Physiology in this institution, was placed in the hands of a veterinarian. From 1915 to the present date Chemistry and Biology were taught in the College of Science, which is now a constituent part of University College, but previous to that year these subjects were taught by part-time members of the staff of the Veterinary College.

The Dublin College is unique in that it is a State Institution and, therefore, the only one of the five affiliated veterinary colleges in which the staff are Civil Servants. The Liverpool School has the distinction of being the only affiliated veterinary college which is an integral part of a university and the staff are, therefore, servants of the university similar to those of the other faculties. The other affiliated colleges, namely, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow, are under the control of Boards of Governors.

Previous to the year 1844 there was no special corporate body in existence in Great Britain or Ireland to conduct examinations and grant diplomas in veterinary science as exists to-day. The two veterinary colleges then in existence in Great Britain, London and Edinburgh, not only conducted teaching but each examined its own students, controlled its own examinations and granted its own diploma or certificate. At that time the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland also granted a certificate in veterinary science which entitled the holder to practise in Scotland. It was then customary for the Scottish students to take this certificate in addition to that granted by the Edinburgh College. The possession of a certificate from one of these institutions was then regarded as the distinguishing mark between the educated practitioner of the Veterinary Art and the quack or man of the farrier type with whom the former had to compete. As the qualified men increased in number there naturally arose among them a desire to obtain some control over the qualifying examinations and also over the subjects of professional study and the duration of the curriculum. This desire grew in intensity, largely because both in London and Edinburgh there were manifest defects, not to say abuses, in connection with the constitution of the examining boards, which were almost entirely composed of medical men. This culminated in the establishment of a controlling body known as the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons which was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844. This body thus created was intended to include among its members all qualified veterinary surgeons then in existence and it was given the right to fix the time and place and the manner of examining students who had been educated at the London and Edinburgh Colleges, or such other veterinary colleges as might afterwards be founded in Great Britain or Ireland, also to regulate the nature and extent of such examinations, and to appoint persons to examine and determine upon the fitness and qualifications of students who might be desirous of obtaining diplomas in Veterinary Surgery and Medicine. It was hoped thus to form into a homogeneous body all the veterinary surgeons in the country so that all would have the same qualifications, as members of the same corporate body, M.R.C.V.S. On the establishment of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as an examining body in 1844, the London and Edinburgh Colleges then surrendered the right which they had previously exercised of examining students, and became merely teaching institutions affiliated to that body. The Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, however, continued to grant certificates until the passing of the first Veterinary Surgeons' Act in 1881. From this year onwards there has been only one examining or diploma-granting body for the veterinary profession in Great Britain and Ireland and this system has become known as the " One Portal System " since the only means of entry to the veterinary profession in Great Britain and Ireland is through this body.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is governed by a Council of 36 members elected by the members of the veterinary profession. Its Headquarters are in London at 10, Red Lion Square, but it should not be confused with the Royal Veterinary College, London, which is at Camden Town and which is merely a teaching institution identical with the Dublin College. The Royal College recognises the London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool and Dublin Colleges as affiliated teaching institutions for the purpose of preparing students for the Royal College examinations, and these five institutions are thus usually referred to as affiliated or constituent colleges. In 1881 the control exercised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons was confirmed and further increased by the passing of the first Veterinary Surgeons' Act which authorised the establishment of a register of qualified veterinary surgeons and made it illegal for any unqualified person to use the title of Veterinary Surgeon or any other designation indicating that he has specially qualified to practise. It did not, however, prohibit the treatment of animals by unqualified persons. Its object was merely to enable the public to distinguish between qualified and unqualified practitioners, the latter in those days being numerous and well established and a serious source of competition to the qualified members of the profession. A section of this Act, however, made provision for those unqualified practitioners who for five years previous to the passing of the Act had been making their livelihood out of veterinary practice, inasmuch as their rights to continue practice were legalised and they were thus placed on a special register and designated " Existing Veterinary Practitioners." The names of six of these still exist on the register for 1940. In 1920 a new Veterinary Surgeons' Act was passed amending the 1881 Act and imposing an annual fee of £1 1s. on all members practising in Great Britain and Ireland. A further amending Act was passed in 1931 ratifying an agreement made with the then Irish Free State regarding the examination of students at the Dublin College and imposing on Free State members a payment to the Royal College of an annual fee of £1 1s. The latter fee is in addition to an annual fee of £1 1s. payable by those on the Irish register to the Irish Veterinary Council, but that Council is legally responsible for the collection of both these fees so that each member on the register of Eire pays an annual fee of £2 2s. to the Irish Council, £1 1s. of which is handed over to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

With the establishment of the Irish Government in 1922, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons no longer exercised any jurisdiction over the members of the profession in the 26-county portion of Ireland. This state of affairs continued until the passing of the Irish Veterinary Surgeons' Act in 1931, although the Royal College never ceased to recognise the Dublin College as an affiliated institution and continued to examine the Dublin students as before. With the passing of the Irish Act an Irish Veterinary Council, and with it an Irish Register of Veterinary Surgeons, was established and thus for the first time the veterinary profession in the 26 counties of Eire came under the jurisdiction of an Irish body. This Act, however, restored to the Royal College its control of the examination system in the Dublin College so that the graduates of this college have exactly the same qualifications as the graduates of the colleges in Great Britain, and whether our export cattle be examined at the Dublin port or at Birkenhead the examination is carried out by men who are graduates

of the same corporate body and, therefore, of exactly the same professional standing. Furthermore, in virtue of this arrangement there is reciprocity between the British and Irish Registers of Veterinary Surgeons whereby a Dublin graduate can, if he so desires, place himself on both registers so that he is enabled to practise his profession not only in Ireland but also in Great Britain and any part of the British Empire.

The Irish Veterinary Council consists of eight members elected by the members of the profession in the 26 counties of Eire, and four of these are automatically members of the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. It exercises jurisdiction over the members of the profession in Eire in exactly the same manner as that hitherto exercised by the Royal College, except that it does not control directly the examination system in the Dublin College. In virtue, however, of its representation, by four of its members, on the Council of the Royal College it thus conjointly with the Royal College maintains considerable influence over the examination system in this country.

It may be observed that the Irish Veterinary Surgeons' Act is at least one step in advance of the British Acts inasmuch as it not only prevents an unqualified person from representing himself or herself to be a veterinary surgeon, but it also prohibits such a person from practising veterinary surgery or medicine. It does not, however, prevent an owner or the servant of an owner from treating his or her own animals or from carrying out minor operations incidental to the ordinary care and management of animals. The M.R.C.V.S. diploma is the only legal qualification entitling a person to be called a veterinary surgeon or to practise Veterinary Surgery or Medicine in Ireland or Great Britain, but there are several post-graduate qualifications which a veterinary surgeon can obtain, particularly if he wishes to pursue some special line of work or enter some particular branch of the profession. Three of these are granted by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, namely, the D.V.S.M., instituted in 1914, the D.T.V.M. instituted in 1932, and the F.R.C.V.S. instituted in 1876. The D.V.S.M. is the Diploma of Veterinary State Medicine and involves a year's study after graduation. It is usually taken by those who wish to pursue public health work. The D.T.V.M. is the Diploma of Tropical Veterinary Medicine. It involves a year's study of tropical diseases, at the Edinburgh College, after graduation and is taken by those who hope to obtain official appointments in the British Colonies or Dominions. The F.R.C.V.S. is the Fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and is usually taken by practitioners who wish to pursue clinical research work and thus raise the professional standing of the clinical aspect of the profession. Candidates for this diploma must have practised their profession for, at least, two years since their graduation. They must submit a thesis on the results of original research work or observation on a veterinary subject and present themselves for an examination on the subject of the thesis. Since 1932 this diploma may also be granted as an honorary distinction to prominent members of the profession in recognition of professional work of special merit.

There are several other post-graduate qualifications but these are degrees granted by certain Universities in Great Britain, namely, London, Edinburgh, Liverpool and Manchester. In 1906 the University of London created the degree of Bachelor and Doctor of Veterinary Science, B.Sc. and D.Sc., respectively, and students of the Veterinary College, London, who have matriculated in that university are eligible to take the examinations for the B.Sc. degree as internal students after attending certain extra classes during the ordinary membership curriculum and also other additional classes which involve an additional year's study as compared with the course for the M.R.C.V.S. diploma. Students from any of the other affiliated veterinary colleges who have matriculated in the University of London may also take these examinations as external students.

By an ordinance of the University of Edinburgh in 1911 the degree of Bachelor (B.Sc.) and Doctor (D.Sc.) of Veterinary Science were instituted and students of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, who have matriculated in that University are eligible to take the examinations for these degrees under similar conditions to those in the case of the London University.

At the University of Liverpool students of the Veterinary Faculty who have matriculated in that University may sit for examinations of the degrees of B.V.Sc., M.V.Sc., and D.V.Sc. (Bachelor, Master and Doctor respectively, of Veterinary Science). The course for the B.V.Sc. can be taken concurrently with the course for the M.R.C.V.S. and does not necessarily involve an extra year's study. This university also grants a post-graduate diploma in Veterinary Hygiene, D.V.H., the course for which is somewhat similar to that for the D.V.S.M. of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

The Victoria University of Manchester grants a post-graduate diploma in Veterinary State Medicine, D.V.S.M., the conditions regarding which are similar to those for the D.V.S.M. of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. In the Royal College Register the holder of this diploma is distinguished from the holder of the D.V.S.M. of the Royal College by the abbreviation "Vict." indicating that the diploma has been granted by the Victoria University, Manchester. This diploma was inaugurated in 1904.

No affiliation has yet been arranged between the Dublin College and a university whereby a student of the Dublin College could study for a university degree concurrently with his ordinary M.R.C.V.S. course, but it is hoped that this position will be rectified at some future date. However, a student of any affiliated veterinary college, including Dublin, who has passed his matriculation of the London University or an examination accepted in lieu thereof, can obtain a B.Sc. degree as an external student of that university. [Some universities grant a Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) to veterinary graduates in recognition of research work of special merit.]

It is now necessary to show exactly how the system of veterinary education through the one-portal system of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons has contributed to the advancement of the general educational standard of the veterinary profession during the past 100 years. It was the powers conferred by the Acts which govern this system that enabled the length of the veterinary course to be increased and the standard of general education of veterinary students to be raised until it is now on a level with that required of medical students. Previous to the Charter of 1844 the length of the veterinary course appears to have been only one short session. In that year the course was increased to two sessions, but there was provision for only one examination and this only of a practical nature, there being no written paper. There was as yet no entrance examination or certificate in general education required. In 1873 two professional examinations were instituted, one at the end of each session, but in 1876 the course was extended to three years and three examinations were instituted. In 1895 the four years' course with four examinations was introduced and Pathology was then, for the first time, added as a separate subject. The course was extended to five years and five examinations in 1932 when Parasitology, as a separate subject, was added and the course in Biochemistry was considerably increased. Until 1892 the professional examinations consisted of only oral and practical, but in that year a written portion was added.

In 1888 a certificate in general education was, for the first time, required before admission to the veterinary course, but it is gratifying to record that in a little over 50 years the standard of the entrance examination has been raised to that of matriculation of a University as required to-day.

The new graduate should regard his diploma not as the be-all and end-all of his professional education, but merely as the foundation on which to build his ever-expanding professional knowledge to greater height. If he is to be a success in his professional career he must of necessity keep abreast of scientific progress, for should he fail to do so and allow himself to lag behind the ever-advancing progress of the science in which he assumes the rôle of an expert, he merely becomes, in later years, what might be fittingly described as a "professional quack" sheltering under the wings of the law which protects his diploma. If he intends to specialise in any particular work he should spend short periods of study at other institutions than that in which he is engaged.

The new graduate should lose no time at the outset of his career in becoming a subscriber to a number of the professional journals and in becoming a member of the National Veterinary Medical Association and also of his local association. He should make it a practice to read these journals regularly in addition to maintaining contact with the newly published text-books on veterinary subjects. It is advisable when reading journals to make short extracts of the articles on the subjects in which the reader is interested and to index these extracts by a card-index system so that he will have a permanent record of references to these subjects when he wishes to consult any of these articles at a later date. All journals should be preserved for future reference. There are precisely 100 veterinary periodicals circulating in the world to-day, but a few of these will suffice for the majority of graduates. A good selection may be made from the following in so far as the English language is concerned; *Veterinary Record, Veterinary Journal, Veterinary Bulletin, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, North American Veterinarian, Cornell Veterinarian, Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science* (South Africa); and there is also the *Index Veterinarius*, first issued in 1933, which is simply an index of references to all veterinary literature and is invaluable to a writer who is compiling data for an article on any subject related to veterinary science. It is published by the Imperial Bureau of Animal Health, Weybridge, Surrey, and is compiled by Mr. W. A. Pool, M.R.C.V.S. This Bureau, through Mr. Pool, also renders a valuable service to the profession by supplying to any member of the profession, on application, references to articles on which the member wishes to obtain information.

Of all the journals mentioned *The Veterinary Record* is the most essential since it is the only veterinary periodical which records the

proceedings of the political activities of the profession in addition to containing a considerable volume of scientific and clinical literature. It reports the proceedings of all meetings of the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the National Veterinary Medical Association and also of the meetings of the local associations as well as containing announcements of professional interest. Since 1921 it has been the official organ of the National Veterinary Medical Association and is supplied free to members of that body. The annual subscription for membership of the Association is £2 2s. It is of interest to note that in normal (pre-war) times members of the profession had the privilege of obtaining, on loan, certain periodicals and text-books from the Library of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, 10, Red Lion Square, London, on prepayment of the necessary postage.

As already mentioned, the young graduate should become a member of the National Veterinary Medical Association and also of his local association if he is to assume the professional standing he desires amongst his confrères, because not only will the meetings of these associations give him an opportunity of coming into contact with the leading members of his profession, but they constitute a common ground on which matters of scientific, political and social interest to the profession can be discussed, both in the meetings themselves and by personal conversation after or before the meetings take place.

The National Veterinary Medical Association of Great Britain and Ireland is merely a presiding body federating the different veterinary societies throughout Great Britain and Ireland, and also affiliated to it are most of the societies of the British Dominions and Colonies. The federated societies of Great Britain and Ireland are grouped into five sections called Branches, namely, North of England, South of England, Welsh, Scottish and Irish. Each Branch consists of a number of Divisions or Societies. For example, the Irish Branch consists of the Societies in Ireland, namely, the Veterinary Medical Association of Ireland and the North of Ireland Veterinary Medical Association.

The National Veterinary Medical Association in normal (pre-war) times held an Annual Congress, extending over one week, at which scientific subjects were discussed and social events were held. Attendance at these Congresses was, to say the least, an education from the scientific point of view, as well as being a very pleasant and beneficial event socially. The Congress met at different centres, frequently at seaside resorts, usually during the last week in July. Its last visit to Dublin was in 1926, and it visited Belfast in 1935.

It may now be legitimately asked: what is the result of all this veterinary education? What have we achieved as a profession? What benefits have the veterinary profession conferred on the community generally? To answer these questions with any degree of completeness would make subject matter for several papers of this kind. Perhaps the most concise reply might be put in the form of another question and answer, namely, what would be the position regarding the health of the livestock of the country if no veterinary profession existed? In reply to this, suffice it to say that the country would simply be swept from corner to corner by animal contagious diseases as was the case in the days before veterinary knowledge became a developed science. In those days this country was ravaged, at stupendous financial loss, by glanders, pleuro-pneumonia, rabies and epizoötic lymphangitis. All these diseases have been completely eradicated from Ireland as the result of the march of the scientific progress of our profession: pleuro-pneumonia in 1892, rabies in 1903, epizoötic lymphangitis in 1906, glanders in 1920; also swine fever would appear to be on the point of elimination. Until the present year this country has been practically free from foot-and-mouth disease for more than a generation, with the exception of a few minor outbreaks, and there is every indication that the recent outbreak, notwithstanding its severity and virulence, will share the fate of the other diseases just mentioned.

The prevention and eradication of contagious diseases reveal only a part of the story regarding the benefits conferred on the nation by the application and administration of advanced veterinary knowledge, for not only have some diseases been completely eradicated, but others which still exist are either kept in check or cured by the activities of the veterinary practitioners who constitute the backbone of the profession. Furthermore, apart from these material benefits, veterinary science plays a still more noble part by preventing and alleviating animal suffering, for no section of human society has more care for the welfare and humane treatment of animals or a deeper knowledge of their feelings than the veterinary profession. Even this does not complete the picture of the invaluable contribution of Veterinary Science to the general welfare of the community, for not only is our profession the guardian of the health of the animal population but it plays a very important rôle in the public health of the nation by protecting the human population from those diseases which are communicable from animals to man, notably tuberculosis and rabies. Through its system of veterinary inspection thousands of human beings, especially children, are saved annually from death or permanent disablement by the protection of the public against the consumption of tuberculous milk and meat. Furthermore, as a consequence of the eradication of rabies from the canine species in this country, as well as in many other countries of the world, countless human lives have been spared the agonies of the most dreadful death to which the human race is heir.

CLINICAL COMMUNICATION

Tuberculous Osteoarthritis in Native Cattle in Uganda

J. CARMICHAEL and L. H. LESTER
Veterinary Research Laboratory, Entebbe, Uganda

Tuberculosis is especially common in the long-horned Ankole cattle and the lesions are chiefly glandular and pulmonary with occasional generalised cases.

The object of this note is to record two interesting cases where in the one the elbow joint and the associated bones were involved and in the other the carpus.

Case 1.—This animal was of the Ankole breed and was purchased for serum-making about a year previously. It was reported lame and the off side fore limb showed wasting of the muscles and examination revealed the elbow joint to be fixed.

The general condition apart from the affected limb was good. The ox had never been housed and for the past year had not even been kraaled at night.

The animal was destroyed.

Post-mortem examination.—There was extensive and advanced generalised tuberculosis involving the thorax and abdomen. The affected leg showed a tuberculous arthritis of the elbow joint whilst the humerus and radius and ulnar showed an advanced tuberculous osteitis.

The bones were macerated and revealed that there was extensive bone destruction and rarefaction, involving not only the articular surfaces of the elbow joint but also the head of the humerus, thus indicating that the tuberculous process had extended the length of this bone.

There was a certain amount of new bone laid down in the region of attachment of the joint capsule of the humero-radio-ulnar joint.

Case 2.—This was an adult zebu-Ankole cross-bred ox about 11 years old and had been at the laboratory for seven years, where it was originally a serum producer and later a transport animal.

It developed a hot, painful swelling over the carpus which subsided, leaving a hard swelling and some interference with movement of the joint.

The animal was destroyed five months later and *post-mortem* examination revealed very extensive generalised tuberculosis.

The affected limb showed an advanced osteo-arthritis of the carpus. Whilst there was a certain amount of ulceration and destruction of some of the articular surfaces, the striking feature of this case was the marked exostoses on the anterior surfaces of the carpal bones themselves and the adjoining long bones.

Like the subject of the previous case, this animal had never been housed and was in fair condition.

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in these cattle, but lesions involving the bones and joints have so far not been described.

Weekly Wisdom

The author realises that one cannot practise medicine with prescriptions, and yet his several years of teaching pharmacology and therapeutics point out the necessity of having something as a starting point unless we are to turn our graduates to the exclusive use of proprietary remedies.—H. J. Milks's "Veterinary Pharmacology, Materia Medica and Therapeutics." Preface to the Second Edition.

* * * * *

For the remainder of the war the Government will discourage, other than for public services, the holding of luncheons and dinners attracting large numbers of people. Meals in restaurants and hotels are to be limited to three courses at limited price and the sale of fish, game and poultry banned on specified days.

ABSTRACTS

[GRASSLAND RESEARCH AND ANIMAL NUTRITION. Moon, F. E. (1941.) *J. R.A.V.C.* **13**. 10-21.]

This article is concerned essentially with more recent research work on the grass crop. Emphasis is laid on the variable nature of grass as a feeding-stuff ranging from a highly digestible protein concentrate in the young stage to fibrous roughage when made into hay. Young grass protein has a very high biological value and is rich in lysine. The protein of autumn grass is superior biologically to that in earthnut and linseed cake and maize. The importance of the minerals in grass is emphasised and consideration is given to Ca, P, Fe, Mn, Cu, Co and Mo, the latter elements in relation to deficiency diseases and toxicoses. [The statement that "swayback" in lambs is due to a deficiency of Cu in the herbage is erroneous, as are the figures given for the Cu content of "swayback" pastures.—*Abstr.*] Discussion is devoted to the vitamins occurring in grass, in particular A, the B complex, C, D and the "grass-juice" factor.

Methods of grassland management are considered and recent work in relation to improvement is described, including rotational grazing, manuring and reseeding. Details are given of various methods of grass conservation with special reference to drying, ensiling and haymaking and the methods for the preservation of various essential constituents. Recent work by the Oxford Institute of Agricultural Engineering on improvement of haymaking technique is described, and the relative advantages and disadvantages of haymaking at higher moisture content than is possible with ordinary stacking are compared. Reference is made to other lesser known methods of haymaking, including the Northern practice of "piking."

A. E.

* * * * *

[THE NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF DOGS. McCay, Clive M. (1939.) Ithaca, N.Y. 32 pp.]

This pamphlet has been written and published by the Professor of Animal Nutrition at Cornell University, and although couched in semi-popular language it contains much useful information and possesses a bibliography "in order to assist veterinarians and other students who may wish to go more deeply into the scientific literature." The carbohydrate, fat, protein, vitamin and mineral requirements of the species are all dealt with in a straightforward manner and there is a useful table giving the amounts of these substances in the foods commonly fed to the dog.

The pamphlet is issued at very low cost [about 1s.] and may be ordered through any bookseller who is still accepting orders for U.S.A. publications. It should prove of considerable value to those engaged in small-animal practice and to veterinary students.

A. N. W.

* * * * *

[LA POLYARTHRITE DU POULAIN (Polyarthritis of Foals). Portras, E. (1940.) *Canad. J. comp. Med.* **4**. 318-322.]

The term polyarthritis includes all those disease processes which give rise to exudative or suppurative arthritis, omphalophlebitis and lastly pyosepticaemia which usually follows inflammation of the serous membranes and abscess formation in the liver and kidneys. Infection may be either intra- or extra-uterine. The common pathogenic organisms are streptococci, staphylococci, *Bact. coli, Bact. enteritidis, Bact. viscosum equi* and in areas where contagious abortion is prevalent, *Bact. abortus equi.*

In cases of intra-uterine infection, death from pyo-septicaemia ensues soon after birth. The joints are not usually involved.

Infection by the mouth generally gives rise to an exudative type of arthritis accompanied by peritonitis and pleurisy. Infection *via* the navel usually results in suppuration in liver, kidneys and joints. Symptoms are more rapid in onset and develop earlier in life than those caused by oral infection. Death supervenes in each case when the bacteria invade the blood stream.

Treatment of the condition may be considered from three angles:

1. *Management.*—Foals should be born at pasture if possible. If born indoors, particular attention should be paid to the umbilicus.

2. *Immunisation.*—The mare may be immunised with a mixed bacterin.* Some recommend the administration of polyvalent serum to the foal as soon as it is born.

3. *Treatment.*—Local antiseptic treatment of the navel together with the intravenous administration of massive doses of polyvalent serum may prove of value. Particular attention should be paid to a patent urachus and an attempt made to close it. Sulphanilamide may be given by the mouth commencing with 5 grammes on the first day. Any diarrhoea should be controlled medicinally by the mouth. It may be necessary to give local treatment to affected joints. In severe cases the transfusion of the dam's blood may be tried—100 c.c. on the first day, 200 c.c. on the second and 300 c.c. on the third day.

J. S. P.

* Bacterin, in veterinary medicine, means a suspension of dead bacteria. The term vaccine should be reserved for biological products containing live or inactivated virus and for live bacterial suspensions.—*Abstr.*

* * * * *

[THE EXPERIENCE OF NEARLY SIX YEARS WITH CALFHOOD VACCINATION. Tompkins, L. J. (1940.) *Cornell Vet.* **30**. 178-192.]

The author describes in very complicated form the results of vaccinating calves in dairy herds with the B.A.I. strain 19 of low virulence. The fact that it was enacted in 1930 that herds producing certified milk should be free from brucella infection provided the stimulus for blood testing in the first place and vaccination secondarily. The first herd was vaccinated in 1934 and by the end of 1939 60 groups embracing 708 calves had been vaccinated. Controls were only provided in the first two groups, in which 24 calves were vaccinated between 5 and 7 months of age and 32 were left as controls. Five test calves later aborted and four controls, but only one of the former appeared to have aborted specifically, judging by the results of the blood test. About 27 per cent. of the controls reacted and four of them aborted. Agglutination reactions were not observed systematically, but it appeared that positive titres which developed faded out during the first lactation period.

The uncontrolled groups are discussed collectively. In clean herds in which calfhood vaccination was carried out abortions continued to occur to the extent of from 3 to 11 per cent. annually and retained placentae to the extent of 11 to 13 per cent. annually. Graphs are given purporting to show reactions in infected herds, both in animals vaccinated as calves and in those not vaccinated. It is claimed that reactions in the former group were conspicuously absent.

Three hundred and ninety-one pregnancies in an unstated number of vaccinated animals terminated only in three abortions at first calving, nine at the second and five at the third, and in only one case was there a + agglutination titre at the last tests on these animals.

The average time period required for vaccinated calves to regain a negative blood titre was 14·8 months. Vaccination is judged to have been very successful.

J. E.

* * * * *

[A NEW DEPARTURE IN HORSE-SHOEING: TUBE BORIUM. *J. Amer. vet. med. Ass.* **98**. 389-391. (4 figs.).]

"Borium is the trade name of a fused tungsten carbide developed in 1927 to replace black diamond for rotary drilling tools. Borium treated bits keep sharp by chipping and thereby maintain their keen cutting face until completely worn out. The chipping is the quality that qualifies borium for fusing into the wearing surface of the horse-shoe. It stays sharp—non-slip."

Tube borium is made up for use in the form of rods and is composed of tungsten carbide and steel. The shoe is made in the ordinary way and is then either completely surfaced with tube borium or merely at the toe and heels. It is applied by the electric or oxy-acetylene welding processes. Two different kinds of tube borium are made, one for each process. The two kinds are not interchangeable.

The main advantages claimed for surfacing shoes with this substance are: Horses so shod do not slip, not even on ice; tube borium-treated shoes have lasted as long as two years; it can be applied to the shoes without difficulty by anyone with acetylene welding experience.

The extra cost works out at about one dollar for each set of shoes.

It would appear that this modified type of horse-shoeing has definite advantages over present-day anti-slip measures, including rubber, as practised in this country. If there is any obstacle to its universal use then perhaps it is that all blacksmiths must have a knowledge of acetylene welding.

C. F.

To improve the standard of goat breeding, the Department of Agriculture for Scotland is offering grants to approved committees or societies which own or arrange for the hire of stud goats of approved merit, and to individual owners of stud goats of approved merit in districts where the formation of a committee or society is impracticable.

REPORT

[DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CANADA. Report of the Veterinary Director General for year ending March 31st, 1941.]

The Veterinary Director General (Dr. A. E. Cameron) controls the Health of Animals Division, which is divided into two sections, the Contagious Diseases Section and the Meat and Canned Food Section, and each of these is in charge of a Chief Veterinary Inspector.

With the exception of hog cholera (swine fever) no serious outbreaks of disease occurred during the year. Four provinces became involved in a swine fever epizoötic which is stated to have been the most serious since 1914-15. Over 35,000 pigs, at a compensation cost of over 200,000 dollars, were slaughtered during the control campaign adopted, which comprised, in addition to slaughter of infected and immediate in-contact animals, the protection of the more remote in-contact animals with serum. By the end of the year the disease had practically been stamped out by this procedure. The diversion of a number of the staff for this work curtailed activities on bovine tuberculosis eradication, which is being conducted on a large scale on lines that have proved so successful in the U.S.A.; nevertheless, 1,198,699 tuberculin tests were made, and at the time of reporting 46 per cent. of all the cattle in Canada were under tuberculosis control. The elimination of Bang's disease has also been in hand for some time and 2,200 herds were under control measures during the year. Dourine, glanders, sheep scab and rabies have already been eradicated from Canada. One outbreak of anthrax and some sporadic cases of mange in cattle and horses occurred during the year; otherwise, no mention is made of the occurrence of infectious diseases.

In the Meat and Canned Foods Section a considerable increase in inspection duties took place as a result of an increased output of pork for export. This amounted to 157,660,214 lb. over the previous year's pork kill. The numbers of the various animals slaughtered in the 92 establishments under inspection in Canada during the year were: Cattle, including calves, 1,603,274; sheep 765,281; pigs 5,884,677; poultry 788,459, and other animals 92. Of these, 1·37 cattle carcases were condemned principally owing to tuberculosis, emaciation and immaturity. Swine condemnations amounted to 0·23 per cent., sheep to 0·42 per cent. and poultry to 1·58 per cent. Various forms of canned and other meat preparations examined, presumably bacteriologically, amounted to 2,601.

W. K.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT

Milk Recording Societies

Mr. Price asked the Minister of Agriculture whether any steps are contemplated to revive the grants to the milk recording societies, in view of the importance of raising the yield of milk in the country?

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. R. S. Hudson): No, Sir.

Mr. Price: Does the right hon. Gentleman realise that several of these societies will not be able to continue unless they get Government support?

Mr. Hudson: I do not know about that, but I am sure that every farmer by now should realise the desirability of milk-recording in his own interests.

Agriculture: Long-Term Policy

Sir Percy Hurd asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he is encouraging the proposal made at the recent convention at Ottawa, supported by the United States agricultural adjustments administrator, that an English-speaking producers' conference should be held in the near future to evolve a long-term agricultural policy, to provide an adequate diet from a national standpoint for all the peoples in the countries concerned?

Mr. Hudson: The question of long-term agricultural policy is necessarily bound up very closely with the wider problem of post-war economic policy generally, and these are matters primarily for the various Governments concerned. I doubt, therefore, whether any useful purpose would be served by a formal conference of English-speaking agricultural producers' organisations at this stage.

Old and Infirm Horses (Disposal)

Sir John Mellor asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he will now empower war agricultural executive committees to order the disposal of horses which are too old or infirm to be useful?

Mr. Hudson: I am not yet in a position to add to the reply given to my hon. Friend on February 26th last.

Sir J. Mellor: When does my right hon. Friend expect to be able to give a decision?

Mr. Hudson: The position, of course has been complicated by the fact that the basic petrol ration is to be abolished on July 1st, and there will no doubt be a large demand for horses then.

NOTES AND NEWS

The Editor will be glad to receive items of professional interest for inclusion in these columns.

Diary of Events

Apr. 29th.—Annual Meeting of The National Veterinary Benevolent and Mutual Defence Society at Manchester, 2.15 p.m.
May 4th.—N.V.M.A. Committee Meetings at 36, Gordon Square, W.C.1.
May 5th.—Meeting of Council, N.V.M.A., in London.
May 6th.—Meeting of the Editorial Committee, N.V.M.A., at 36, Gordon Square, W.C.1, 2.30 p.m.
May 7th.—Meeting of the Central Veterinary Society, at the Conway Hall Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, 2.30 p.m.
May 11th.—R.C.V.S. Animal Management Examination begins.

* * * * *

SUPERVISION OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION TRIALS

Fuller Veterinary Representation Required

On numerous occasions we have expressed the disappointment of the profession at the absence or undue limitation of veterinary representation on bodies officially appointed to investigate problems primarily within its province. The excerpt reproduced below from a recent issue of *The Farmers' Weekly* is a welcome sign that those interested in agriculture are now appreciating the fact that our remonstrances are based upon a recognition of the loss which official committees are sustaining thereby—and further that the policies ultimately developed suffer from this inadequate, or frequently total lack of, veterinary representation. The terms of the timely protest made by the Editor of *The Farmers' Weekly* are as follows:—

"The news that at long last the Ministry is to conduct large-scale trials of artificial insemination is good hearing. At last we are making a start. But the composition of the committee* to control the experiments rather surprises me. There are eight members, and only one of them—Professor J. F. Craig, a Scotsman—is a veterinary scientist. After all, artificial insemination is primarily a matter for veterinary people, and it seems to me they should have been much more fully represented in the administration of the scheme."

* The functions and constituent personnel of the supervisory committee were announced in our issue of April 11th.—*Editor, V.R.*

. . . . .

English Jersey Society's Safeguards

English Jersey cattle breeders have adopted a scheme for supervising the registration of animals bred by artificial insemination, and the Management Committee of the Society have decided to put it into operation immediately and are hoping for considerable success. "They go further," states *The Farmer and Stockbreeder*, "and hope that breeders will take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by the innovation."

"Regulations drafted as safeguards insist that the approval of the E.J.C.S. to the artificial insemination of registered animals must be obtained before insemination is carried out.

"The actual insemination is to be done under the supervision of an approved veterinary surgeon, and certificates signed by him must be submitted giving full details. Birth of a calf to registered parents is to be immediately reported to the Society, and the owner must sign a certificate that the dam did not come into season after the date of insemination. A signed certificate will also be required that the cow has not had access to any bull during the heat period in which she was inseminated."

* * * * *

PERSONAL

Accident to Dr. Share Jones.—We learn with much regret that Dr. Share Jones, Emeritus Professor in the University of Liverpool, recently sustained serious injury from a motor-car while walking on the road near his home, Pentrebychan Hall, near Wrexham. He was taken to the Wrexham War Memorial Hospital, where it was found that, in addition to the bad bruising which he had sustained, one of his legs had been fractured. His many friends in the profession will be glad to know that, aided by his wonderful vitality, Dr. Share Jones is making satisfactory progress.

R.C.V.S. OBITUARY

Fairbank, David, Leintwardine, Salop. Graduated London, April 11th, 1888. Died April 6th, 1942.

* * * * *

MILK PRODUCTION IN 1942-43

In a recent joint announcement by the Agricultural Departments, all dairy farmers are strongly urged to make early provision for growing on their own farms adequate supplies of food for their dairy herd for next winter. During the current winter dairy farmers have been expected to provide maintenance and sufficient cereals for the first half-gallon of milk per day. Where milk producers could satisfy their Agricultural Executive Committees that they were unable to provide for the first half-gallon, they have been allowed full rations for all milk sold. Next winter, however, the position with regard to cereals will be more difficult if only because the decision to raise the milling ratio will necessarily reduce the supply of milling offals. Farmers must therefore be prepared to provide next winter for maintenance and something more than the first half-gallon—perhaps a full gallon per day; and the Committees will be compelled to be more stringent in dealing with applications for full rations on the grounds that farm production is insufficient.

* * * * *

MILK PRODUCERS AND TUBERCULIN TESTING

The report of the Executive Committee for the year 1941, presented to the annual general meeting of the Association of Certified and T.T. Milk Producers, referred to the endeavours made in conjunction with the English T.T. Association and various breed societies to get the authorities to effect necessary changes in the method of tuberculin testing. "In this connection Dr. Chalmers Watson had attended various meetings in London, particularly meetings with the Minister of Agriculture and with the Animal Health Division of the Ministry; and a further meeting will take place in London shortly. Some progress is now being made, and members will be advised as soon as any definite changes are announced. The Executive Committee considers that it is beyond all question that the Association's attitude on the matter of Weybridge Tuberculin has been amply justified throughout.

"Briefly, the attitude adopted by the Executive Committee has been that, while they have perforce to accept the tuberculin now being used for official tests, they are still strongly of opinion that a cardinal error was committed in introducing Weybridge Tuberculin in May, 1940, without first informing herd owners of the proposed change and before complete scientific investigations regarding its effects had been carried out."

The report was unanimously adopted and Dr. Chalmers Watson was instructed to report back to the Executive Committee the results of the forthcoming meeting in London with the Joint Tuberculosis Committee.

* * * * *

FARMERS' INCOME TAX

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated in his Budget speech, it is proposed that all farmers whose rental value exceeds £100 will now be assessed on Schedule D—that is to say, on the profits of the farm rather than on the rental value. At the same time, farmers whose rental value does not exceed £100 will now be assessed on three times the rental value, or to give its correct name three times the Schedule B annual value, unless they can show that actual profits were less than this.

The Ministry of Agriculture announces that, in consultation with the Inland Revenue Department, it is preparing a new bulletin for guidance of farmers on both Income Tax and E.P.T., and adds: "As a result of the Budget proposals it becomes more than ever necessary for farmers in their own interest to keep accounts. By so doing they will both be able to control more closely the management of the farm and to make sure that the tax assessments are correct. It is hoped to issue guidance at an early date as to the form of accounts which farmers should keep; but meanwhile they would be well advised at least to keep accounts of their farm receipts and expenditure."

* * * * *

GIRL STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITIES

Rules for Age of Retention

After consultation with the committee of vice-chancellors and principals of universities on the position of women who are within the scope of the National Service Acts and the Registration for Employment Order, the Minister of Labour announces that a woman will not normally be permitted to remain at a university for the purpose of graduating or obtaining a diploma in an approved course of study beyond the end of the academic year in which she reaches her twentieth birthday. But a woman whose birthday falls on or after July 1st will be allowed to complete the academic year which ends in the next calendar year. Women who proceed immediately after graduation to diploma courses or to courses of professional training in approved subjects not exceeding one year in duration will be permitted to complete the courses. These arrangements are subject to satisfactory reports of conduct and progress.

For students already at a university or entering in the Michaelmas term, 1942, the following exceptional provisions will apply: Women who are already in the penultimate year of their training or are recognised students under the Board of Education regulations for the training of teachers will be permitted to finish their courses. Any other woman among those already at a university who gives an undertaking to the satisfaction of the university authorities that she intends to teach will be allowed to complete her degree course.

Women who enter a university in the Michaelmas term, 1942, will be permitted to remain at the university for two academic years for the purpose of graduating or obtaining a diploma in an approved course of study, provided that on October 1st, 1942, they have not exceeded the age of 19 years and six months.

The conditions set out in the preceding paragraphs, other than the requirement of satisfactory conduct and progress, will not apply to women students of medicine, dentistry, and veterinary surgery. These students will be allowed to complete their full courses.

* * * * *

LEGAL NOTES

Rotor Arm Law.—Mr. A. Sutherland, veterinary surgeon, Farrar Road, Bangor, charged at Bangor with failing to immobilise his car outside Aber Hotel, contended that he was at the hotel on professional business, and in those circumstances the law did not require him to remove the rotor arm of the car.

The Magistrate's Clerk (Mr. Elwyn Jones) said that if a veterinary surgeon was professionally engaged, there was no need for him to remove the rotor arm.

Mr. Sutherland explained that a dog was brought to him for an operation and afterwards he had to find a home for it. A lady at the hotel had asked him for a dog, and he went there to discuss the matter. He considered he was there on professional business.

Superintendent Roberts.—The question is whether selling a dog can be designated as professional business.

Defendant.—The running of kennels here is part of my work.

A fine of 20s. was imposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editor should reach the Office not later than by the first post on Monday morning for insertion in following Saturday's issue.

The views expressed in letters addressed to the Editor represent the personal view of the writer only and must not be taken as expressing the opinion or having received the approval of the N.V.M.A.

* * * * *

THE PROFESSION AND PUBLICITY

To the Editor of the Veterinary Record

Sir,—I have been interested in the recent letters on the above subject, more particularly in the one from Mr. Malcolm Messer, the Editor of the *Farmers' Weekly*. He is known to be a friend of the profession, and all will, I am sure, be very grateful to him for placing the *Farmers' Weekly* at our disposal as a medium for publicity.

I have recently been reading a copy of the South African *Farmers' Weekly*, and I spent some time looking through the advertisements and comparing them with those in the *Farmers' Weekly* published in this country. A comparison of the advertisements for animal medicines was interesting and instructive; whereas the English *Farmers' Weekly* contained many advertisements, some of them couched in extravagant terms, for the prevention and cure of animal ailments of all sorts, the South African *Farmers' Weekly* had hardly any advertisements for animal remedies at all. I understand that the reason for this is that in South Africa every product, whether imported or manufactured in the country, has to be officially passed by the competent government authority before it can be advertised or offered for sale. This entails the disclosure of the formulae, and a note of all claims which will be advanced for the preparation on the label or contained in press advertising. The tests applied are extremely thorough, with

the result that if a product is authorised for sale it can rightly be claimed that it has a definite place in veterinary therapeutics.

Admittedly this procedure does not safeguard the important question of the accurate diagnosis of animal disease. In a country of sparse population and wide open spaces it does, however, ensure that if a stock owner cannot secure private or government veterinary advice he can at least, based on his own diagnosis, purchase a product for his own use and one for which an authentic claim has been established.

How different in this country, where almost any claim for a veterinary medicine goes unchallenged. Our farming Press offers a host of so-called remedies and certainly very few of them, even if of value, would pass the South African test without a serious revision of the statements which occur on labels or in advertisements. In the interests of the nation, surely now more than ever before, it would be expedient for our own Government to introduce at least a like measure. Money spent on useless purchases could be more profitably employed in the war effort. Above all else it would be official recognition of the fact that animal health is one thing, and that dividend arising out of extravagant and often misleading claims for veterinary medicines is quite another matter.

I have no doubt that the farming Press wishes us well and it is up to us to seek their collaboration and assistance so that we, together with manufacturing chemists of repute, may co-operate to protect the farmer against himself.

It is indeed heartening to me, as it must be to very many other members of the profession, to note the increasing number of well-known firms of manufacturing chemists which are adopting a strictly ethical policy towards the veterinary profession. Nothing but good can come from this.

It is *sine qua non* that an accurate diagnosis is a necessary prerequisite for the maximum benefit to be obtained from the use of any pharmaceutical product and its misuse may readily bring that product into disrepute. As I have said before, the manufacturing chemist and the veterinary practitioner should not regard each other as competitors for the sale of biological products to the stock owner, but rather should they collaborate in an effort to ensure that biological products are prescribed and administered in a manner calculated to produce the maximum beneficial effect to the animal.

Properly organised, manufacturing chemists would publicise the veterinary profession which in turn would bring credit to therapeutic products of repute; the stock owner would get value for money and the animal a better chance of survival!

Yours faithfully,
H. W. Steele Bodger.

Tamworth.
April 20th, 1942.

* * * * *

STAFFING THE VETERINARY INSPECTORATE

To the Editor of the Veterinary Record

Sir,—I would like to comment on a part of Mr. James Robertson's letter in your issue of April 11th.

Surely "those who have *successfully practised* for the last 40 years as veterinary surgeons and veterinary inspectors to the Ministry" do not need inspectorships after the age of 65! The Ministry must have some ruling and cannot differentiate between individual members. Probably a high percentage of men over 65 do not wish to stand in the way of younger graduates. Even the Army at last appear to think younger officers are more energetic, etc., than older men and are replacing many of the older men in the more responsible positions.

Old men are always grumbling about the lack of practical knowledge in young graduates; but, given a chance, the young men become practical after a year or two. Give the younger graduates a chance, as the Ministry are trying to do.

Yours faithfully,
H. J. Loveless.

Norfolk House,
Pier Avenue,
Clacton.
April 14th, 1942.

To the Editor of the Veterinary Record

Sir,—Letters whose main purpose is apparently to disparage the ability of the younger members of the veterinary profession are usually read by the latter in a spirit of amused tolerance on the principle that "nothing is ever so good as it was." Occasionally, however, as in the letter written by Mr. Robertson (*Veterinary Record*, April 11th), the writer so far transgresses the bounds of fact as to warrant a reply.

We consider that letter to be particularly inopportune at a time when there is a rapidly growing demand for the employment of younger men in the administration of public affairs.

Before proceeding to the main point, *i.e.*, the "practical man," we must point out several glaring discrepancies in Mr. Robertson's letter. In the first place, all veterinary surgeons are not now reserved if the experience of Glasgow D.V.S.M. men and final year students is general throughout the country. Secondly, he implies that veterinary practice is not serving the country at war. Thirdly, in dogmatically asserting (without giving any reasons) that a high percentage of graduates of to-day are totally incapable he is, *ipso facto*, condemning the examiners of the R.C.V.S.—for it can scarcely be argued that the average intelligence and latent ability of the student of to-day is any lower than that of his predecessor of the nineteenth century.

Although Mr. Robertson gives no indication of what he considers the "practical man," we assume that he refers to the older practitioner who graduated at a time when veterinary work was a great deal more empirical than it is to-day. If he refers solely to the lack of practical knowledge of animal management (soon acquired by daily experience) which may sometimes be shown by the recent graduate, then such a factor is surely far outbalanced by the pitiful ignorance of much of the simpler laboratory technique shown by a high percentage of the older practitioners. We might point out that any lack of practical application of veterinary knowledge is of course due, not to the student (who is always willing to learn), but to those older practitioners who have either not accepted students for extra-mural tuition or who, having taken them, are either reluctant or incapable of imparting that type of knowledge which is gained by experience.

While we commiserate with men who, having served long and honourably in the veterinary inspectorate, have now to retire from this branch of their work, and who no longer feel able to withstand the rigorous demands of general practice, yet we incline to the view that in this age of rapidly advancing knowledge it is the man imbued with the enthusiasm of youth, of elastic mind, and possessed of modern scientific education, who should be entrusted with the protection of animal welfare and public health.

We are,
Yours truly,
John B. Harmar, M.R.C.V.S.
Roger L. Steele, President S.R.C.
(Glasgow Veterinary College).

56, Newgate Street,
Morpeth,
Northumberland.
April 13th, 1942.

* * * * *

BOVINE INFERTILITY

To the Editor of the Veterinary Record

Sir,—They must have dull minds who see in Mr. R. H. Smythe's letter (in your issue of March 21st) nothing but a witticism or something merely amusing, for it has more of a thought in it and more of the germ of a truth than many a pompous column. It deserves better than the shameful epithet of destructive criticism. I do not understand those who turn up their eyeballs at destructive criticism, as though the author thereof had been guilty of a primitive misdemeanour in a cathedral. It seems to me that mediocrity finds refuge in such gestures. Let the position be the other way round and you will see that these sensitive souls will evade their own principles by a simple subterfuge. As, should they come upon some bright farmer's son about to insert his hand with the object of trying a little ovary pinching, they will not say "That is a dangerous thing for you to do; don't try," for that would be destructive criticism, and most reprehensible. But if, instead, they say to the farmer's son "Beyond the dairy you will find the boiler-house; go there and eat coke until bed-time and you will not need to do this other thing you meditate," that is constructive criticism, and is quite good form. This simple and devastating convention has a multitude of adherents who see nothing strange in its practice.

In spite of what some of your correspondents appear to think, in spite of the reasons they advance, there is likely to be plenty of "pernicious pinching of ovaries," and that by even more horny-handed members of the community than the local castrator. Mr. Smythe has rendered a service by calling attention to the danger, and he is quite entitled to do so without suggesting a remedy.

Yours faithfully,
Esmond Brown.

Bath.
April 13th, 1942.